

POLICY TITLE: Discipline: Carrying of Weapons			NUMBER 501.00
APPROVAL: Kathryn J. Whitmire, Mayor: <i>Kathryn J. Whitmire</i>			Page <u>1</u> of <u>2</u>
ISSUE DATE: August 22, 1983	REVISION DATE:	REVISION NO.	EFFECTIVE DATE: August 22, 1983

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the City of Houston to prohibit employees from carrying or possessing dangerous weapons while on duty or while on City property or when outside the requirements of their assigned job duties.

Policy Basis: Section 12-184 of the Code of Ordinances and City Ordinance 82-1992 and all applicable state and federal laws regarding the use and possession of dangerous weapons.

Policy Amplification: For the purposes of this rule, possession alone shall be regarded as carrying, and no transporting of the weapon shall be necessary. Possession shall further include all enumerated weapons within the employee's control, either on his/her person or in his/her vehicle, be that vehicle personal or city-owned. Specifically prohibited weapons shall include but not be limited to:

- 1) Clubs - Any instrument readily capable of, though not necessarily designed for, inflicting serious bodily injury by striking a person with said instrument. (i.e., blackjack, nightstick, hatchet, etc.)
- 2) Explosive Weapons - Any explosive capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage.
- 3) Firearms - Any device designed, made or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel by using energy generated by an exploding or burning substance, by compressed air or gases or by any device readily convertible to that use. (i.e., rifle, shotgun, handgun, machine gun, hunting gun, antique guns, etc.)
- 4) Blades - Any bladed hand instrument that is capable of inflicting serious bodily harm or injury to a person by either cutting or stabbing. (i.e., any knife bladed over three inches in length, daggers, swords, switchblades, hunting knives, etc.)
- 5) Any and all other objects, regardless of designed purposes, used with the intent of causing malicious threat, inflicting bodily injury, or otherwise bearing assault or damage on body or property.

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It shall be in keeping with the intent and limit of this policy for the department/division director to impose more appropriate restrictions on the carrying of weapons if such restriction contributes to a higher degree of safety to the general public, departmental employees, and/or the functional operation of the department itself.

Policy Compliance: All employees through division/departement directors shall comply from policy date forward. Policy violation shall subject employee to disciplinary action up to and including indefinite suspension.

Policy Exception: Employees who are required to carry weapons in the performance of their official duties and those authorized to carry weapons in an off duty capacity while working other employment shall be exempt from this policy (included are police officers, airport police officers, city marshalls, arson investigators, and park police) but shall be subject to restricted limitations as defined by city ordinance or by applicable departmental rules, notices, and/or general orders.

All other policy exceptions and or violations of policy shall be directed to the affected department/division director for recommended course of action.